

Senate Bill 978

Honorable Chair Senator Floyd Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

It is my contention that this bill is an attack on our constitutional rights and God given liberties. In Section 1 a "gun" dealer is given the arbitrary option to chose the minimum age requirement for the purchase of firearms, firearms accessories, ammunition, etc. Why?? Just last week it was reported that the Oregon Legislature was considering referring to the People an amendment to the Constitution giving the right of franchise to 16 year olds!! The right to vote is more dangerous to the "public peace, health, and safety" than any firearms regulation!! We send our young people in to battle fully armed at the age of 18, yet a firearms dealer would have the discretion to deny them the right to "bear arms for the defence [sic] of themselves" (Art. 1 Sec. 27 Oregon Constitution).

The "Cindy Yuille and Steve Forsyth" Act is a good way to create criminals out of law abiding citizens and potentially kill, maim, or injure law abiding citizens. Most law abiding firearms owners already responsibly store their firearms and teach their children and grandchildren what to do when they encounter any firearm. Just last week I took my 10 year old granddaughter shooting for the first time. She fired .22 caliber rifles, a .22 revolver, and a 9mm pistol. Prior to that I had her handle, load, and shoot a replica airsoft pistol, all the while making sure that she had memorized and applied the four rules of firearms safety. Also, she has these rules engrained – that if she is at a friend's house and they want to handle a firearm she is to firmly say "NO", leave, and tell an adult. I would hope that all public school train grades K – 3 these basic rules. Also, it would be great if the Oregon Hunters Safety course was offered as an elective starting in 5th grade. Back to the responsible firearms owners – If you are the victim of a home invasion seconds count – the 10 to 20 seconds it takes to retrieve a firearm from a secure container in a closet could be too much, the evil person(s) who just broke in may already be in your bedroom. So, by passing this bill you potentially will be personally responsible for enabling an evil person to injure or kill a law abiding citizen, not to mention taking away our right to bear arms for the defence of ourselves, according to the Constitution.

Section 14 regarding undetectable and untraceable firearms appears to make it legal to sell 80% finished frames or receivers, but in Section 17 (2) the mere possession of the "unserialized" frame or receiver would be illegal. Do you really think that a person with criminal intent is going to take the time and trouble to buy an 80% frame or receiver, the template and tooling, a drill press, all of which are required to finish the frame or receiver. All of this for an "untraceable firearm"? It would be cheaper and faster to buy a firearm illegally on the street.

Section 22 is fairly benign.

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I have one question about Section 24 regarding CHL fees, etc – this is regarding (5) **(D)**. I thought that the background check was and is a \$10.00 fee, the same as is required prior to a firearms transfer.

Section 26 regarding the "Local Authority to Regulate Firearms in Public Buildings" will only serve those who are filled with evil intent and take away the potential for a legal CHL firearms carrying person to protect themselves and the innocent. Terrorists and those with an evil bent will not and never have obeyed signs prohibiting firearms possession. The only effective defense against those armed with firearms are law enforcement and/or those licensed to carry and willing to protect themselves and the innocent

Section 27. Right to bear arms; military subordinate to civil power. The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence [sic] of themselves, and the State, but the Military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power[.]

False is the idea of utility that sacrifices a thousand real advantages for one imaginary or trifling inconvenience; that would take fire from men because it burns, and water because one may drown in it; that has no remedy for evils except destruction. The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes.

-- Cesare Beccaria, as quoted by Thomas Jefferson's Commonplace book

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Commentary of Aspects of SB 978

Honorable Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I was able to attend the hearing on Tuesday the 2nd regarding this bill and found it interesting that "experts" and "dignitaries" such as our Governor are afforded more time to testify than the common people.

My question to you is Why? Surely our Governor is no more knowledgeable than about the issues this omnibus bill addresses, nor, at least from her testimony, has she been directly impacted one way or another by firearms.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the **consent of the governed**,.....

I would like to remind you that any powers that you have are by we, the people, not arbitrarily imposed by your committee. It seems very unfair and that dignitaries, etc. are afforded any more courtesy than the common people.

Furthermore, there was testimony that if there is some small delay in the acquiring of a firearm (a handful of seconds) by a suicidal person, that has given some pause and some have not followed through. Can we ask the people who were successful with this grisly endeavor if they paused? Of course Not! So, there is huge flaw in heeding using the "pause" reason for justification of passing the "safe storage" portion of this egregious act. Also, please review the written testimony by David Suchy regarding the frightening home invasion his wife and he were subject to.

I strongly urge all of you to vote no on this unconstitutional bill.

Thank you, Scott